

The Canadian Evangelist.

Duncan Robertson
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"GO . . . SPEAK . . . TO THE PEOPLE ALL THE WORDS OF THIS LIFE."

Vol. V., No. 14.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 15TH, 1890.

\$1 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

THE Canadian Evangelist

is devoted to the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ; and pleads for the union of all believers in the Lord Jesus in harmony with his own prayer recorded in the seventeenth chapter of John, and on the basis set forth by the Apostle Paul in the following terms: "I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you to walk worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love; giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all."—Eph. iv. 1-6.

New York Letter.

THE DES MOINES CONVENTION.

The writer left New York Monday morning on the limited express over the New York Central en route to Des Moines, Iowa, to attend the annual meetings of the Christian Woman's Board of Missions, the General Missionary Convention, and the Foreign Christian Missionary Society. The journey was made without any incident worthy of note. The place of meeting was reached on Wednesday morning at an early hour. This was too late to be in at the beginning; but there was an abundance of good after this. Do not look to this letter for detailed and specific information. This can be obtained from the official reports and from carefully prepared abstracts of the same which will appear in all of our papers. It will be quite sufficient for me to say at this point that this was the greatest gathering of Disciples that I have seen. The number present was large. The character of the men and women making up the Convention was in every respect first-class. The enthusiasm was both intense and intelligent. The business was conducted generally with dispatch. Love abounded. Of discussion there was none. Of conference there was much. More time was given to waiting on the Lord than formerly. Any man who can not see a growth in grace among the Disciples of Christ as well as an increase in a knowledge of the divine will is blind indeed. Never before were the words of the Master commanding the evangelization of the world so well understood as at the present time. At no previous period in our history was there such a fixedness of purpose to do the will of Christ in this matter.

It makes one feel good to get into a part of the country in which the Christian church, as the organized congregations of the Disciples are called in Iowa and other places in the West and South—to get into a part of the country in which the Christian church occupies, on account of numbers, intelligence, piety and wealth, a commanding position. But such is the case in this godly city of Des Moines, the capital city of the great and growing State of Iowa.

The commodious and elegant church

edifice in which the meetings were held was formally opened for public worship last Lord's day. It is said to be the finest church building belonging to any body of Christians in the State of Iowa. But this building was constructed with an eye especially to utility. It is a great workshop for the people of the Lord. Its cost was \$36,000, and there is not a dollar of debt on the property. H. O. Breeden, the pastor, is a financier, and he has associated with him some excellent business men. Bro. Breeden has been with the Central Church of Christ in Des Moines five or six years, seems to be very popular in his own congregation, and deservedly so with the good people of other congregations, and to be exerting a wholesome, moral and spiritual influence throughout the community. As pleasant and interesting as it would be to do so, I can not attempt a description of the splendid house occupied by the Central Church in Des Moines. The brethren are now in a position to do more and better work than ever before, as excellent as their record is in the years that are gone, and I am confident that they will do all and even more than is expected of them. The entertainment of the conventions was all that could be desired. Dinner and supper were served in the large dining-room of the church. This work was given into the hands of a caterer, and meals were served at twenty-five cents each. Generally the brethren and friends entertained visitors over night at their homes and gave them the first meal of the day.

Tremendous progress has been made by the Disciples of Christ in Des Moines within a few years. There are now four good congregations. We all rejoice in the excellent progress which is being made by our people in this centre of influence.

Drake University is in a most prosperous condition. The number of students in attendance is larger than at this date last year. The entire enrollment for the session of 1888-'90 was nearly nine hundred, and it is expected that the attendance this year will exceed that of last year. It was my privilege to attend a mass missionary meeting of students and others in the chapel of the University building last evening. The audience was large and enthusiastic. Not less than seven to eight hundred people were present, a majority of whom were Christian young men and women. More than \$1,200 was pledged to the missionary work. This was a religious meeting. The taking of pledges surpassed anything of the kind that I ever saw. The work was done in a solemn, earnest, dignified manner. There was no joking. There was no confusion. There was no trifling. No person gave, or agreed to give, more than \$10 a year. Many gave only \$5, some not so much. All seemed to desire a part in sending abroad the good news. I can never forget the missionary mass meeting in the chapel of Drake University, Friday evening, Oct. 21, 1890.

Drake University is now supporting a missionary in Japan, is educating Jiu Hauk, a Christian Chinaman, who will, after two years, return to his own people with the message of life, to be

supported in his work, under the direction of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society, by his Alma Mater. It is proposed to have at least ten missionaries in the field from this institution within five years. There are now eight young people in the school who have said to the Lord: "Here am I; send me!" These young persons are pledged to the Lord and to each other to go any where on the face of the earth to which providence may direct them as heralds of salvation. I dare not trust myself to speak as I feel on this great theme. May the fire of intelligent enthusiasm, burning so brightly in Drake, spread through all of our institutions of learning until every college in the brotherhood shall become a missionary training school. Eureka, Kentucky University, and other places are enlisted and are doing good work. It is evidently beginning to be understood among the Disciples of Christ that the work of Christ's glorious and holy church is the preaching of the Gospel to the whole creation.

The Christian Women's Board of Missions commanded a large degree of attention and sympathy—and justly too—in this annual Convention of the Disciples in Des Moines. The women are doing a glorious work. "The lords of creation" are indebted to them for the degree of success to which they have attained the work of world-wide evangelization to an extent which probably they are not willing to confess. It is certain that the brethren have conducted themselves in their meetings in a more becoming manner since the sisters began to work by their side. Their work has also been conducted in a better business way and with greater success. I like to think that for at least a part of this improvement we are indebted to the excellent example placed before us by intelligent and consecrated women. Every annual meeting shows an enlargement of their work. Miss Kingsbury and Miss Lawrence departed from this meeting for India with the fervent prayers of all who were present. Miss Kingsbury has been at home on furlough for some time, and now returns to her work in India, while Miss Lawrence goes out as a new laborer in this great field.

It is expected that the new house of worship in Ann Arbor, Mich., erected by the Christian Woman's Board of Missions will be opened in a few months. This is a strategic point which has been seized by these devoted friends of the Master. There are 882 auxiliary mission bands, connected with the Christian Woman's Board at Indianapolis, distributed in twenty States, and including more than fifteen thousand persons.

The work of the General Convention has been more prosperous during the past year than any previous year of its history. Sixty-two missionaries have been in its employ and the additions to the churches under their labors aggregate almost one thousand. The total receipts for the last year are also in excess of those of any former year. If any man thinks that no progress is being made he simply confesses that he does not know what is going on. He must be asleep. Our people are more pious than they were. They have

more of the spirit of Christ than they had afortime. They are growing in the grace of liberality more and more. We are coming to understand we are stewards of God; that we are not our own; that we belong to God, and that we are under a most solemn obligation to glorify Him in our bodies.

The Church Extension Fund is in a capital condition. The address of the Convention was delivered by George Darsie, of Frankfort, Ky., in behalf of this department of Christian effort. The address ought to be printed in the form of an envelope tract and distributed by the ten thousand. After the delivery of this address a brief appeal was made by F. M. Rains, and the fund was increased by \$5,000. It now amounts to more than \$10,000. F. M. Rains gives place to G. W. Muckley as agent of the Church Extension Fund. He is a grand, good young man. Receive him cordially and aid him in his work.

President Phillips, of Pennsylvania, could not be present to direct the proceeding of the General Convention, but he sent a pledge for the sum of \$2,500. O. A. Bartholomew, of St. Louis, the First Vice-President, occupied the chair.

The reading of the report of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society, by A. McLean, thrilled all our hearts. The work of this society grows year by year. The receipts for the past year were larger than ever before, but, considering our numbers and ability to give, our contributions to this work are altogether below what they ought to be—below what they certainly will be in a few years. The growth of this society from the beginning has been constant and healthy. Its field of usefulness is not altogether in foreign lands; every department of our work is in better condition because of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society. There is only one mind, so far as I can learn, in the brotherhood concerning Bro. McLean's fitness for the position which he has so well filled from the very beginning of this society. *The universal sentiment, I think, of the brethren is that he ought to give himself wholly to his work.*

But I must bring these hurriedly written notes to a close. There were two meetings of peculiar tenderness and solemnity in Des Moines—the one in which our farewells were spoken to the departing missionaries, and the one in which we listened to the report of the Committee of Obituaries. The list of our dead was unusually long, and contained a large number of names known to the brethren all over the land. To add to the solemnity of the occasion, just before the reading of the report, the announcement was made that J. W. Higbee, of Chicago, who was in the Convention the evening before, was dead. He was in feeble health, but was planning a trip to Texas. He died with the armor on, and with his face toward the foe. His heart was full of the Master's work. He died as he lived, in the faith of the gospel, and in the blessed hope of eternal life.

The brethren in Australia are in co-operation with the Disciples in America in sustaining our work in India. Due recognition of this fact was made.

Expression of love and fellowship for these dear brethren was placed on record. Their hearts are in union with ours in this great cause. We are brethren.

The presence of H. S. Earl, of England, added to the interest of this great meeting. Everybody was glad to see J. M. Van Horn, after an absence in the mother country of eight or ten years. G. J. Wharton and wife and children, after their eight years in India, found a warm place in all hearts. They can never know how greatly they are loved by their brethren in the United States.

D. P. Henderson, of Missouri, was the veteran of this gathering of the soldiers of our Captain—the Captain of our salvation. I was surprised and delighted to see him looking so well. John Boggs stands close to Father Henderson in age and experience. C. L. Loos protests that he must not be called old, albeit he was present and participated in the organization of our missionary work in 1840. He has lived a good many years, but C. L. Loos is yet a young man.—*B. B. Tyler, in Standard.*

Tear It Up.

Secretary Stanton was once greatly vexed because an army officer had refused to understand an order, or, at all events, had not obeyed. "I believe I'll sit down," said Stanton, "and give that man a piece of my mind." "Do so," said Lincoln; "write it now while you have it on your mind. Make it sharp; cut him all up." Stanton did not need a second invitation. It was a bone-cruncher that he read to the president. "That's right," said Abe; "that's a good one." "Whom can I get to send it by?" mused the Secretary. "Send it!" replied Lincoln; "send it! Why, don't send it at all. Tear it up. You have freed your mind on the subject, and that is all that is necessary. Tear it up. You never want to send such letters; I never do."

The virtue of a man ought to be measured not by his extraordinary exertions, but by his every-day conduct.

You may build your churches, you may set them in your great Christian lands in all their national majesty, but the essence and power of the Christian life lies in the touch of soul upon soul. Everything else is but machinery. You may get rid of the machinery, but the power may go on. Get rid of the power, and the machinery all tumbles to pieces.—*Phillips Brooks.*

This morning the writer passed a saloon—passed it remember. Two men were scouring the floor, the glasses were brightly polished, the bottles glistened, the counter reflected what was near, the brass foot railing was brilliant, not a speck was on the mirror. How careful that every part of the exterior should be clean! How different from the fruits of this traffic of hell. We thought of the Saviour's words: "Woe unto you Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for you are like unto whitened sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness."—*Christian Courier.*